

AN
HONEST MAN'S
ADVICE

TO THE
Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders,
and Freemen,

OF THE
Kingdom of IRELAND.

AND
HONEST MAN

ADVICE

TO THE



OF THE

Kingdom of Ireland.

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D U B L I N :
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MEMORANDUM

SHORT

and Freeman



A N
H O N E S T M A N ' s
A D V I C E, &c.

An EXTRACT from a Proclamation to
call a Parliament in the Year 1620,
jointly drawn up by Lord Chan-
cellor *Verulam*, Sir *Edward Coke*,
the two Chief Justices, and Serjeant
Crew.

TH E considerations in said proclamation,
for holding a parliament, amongst many
others, the following ones are mentioned:
That the times may have introduced some things fit
to be reformed, either by new laws, or by the mo-
derate

derate desires of our loving subjects, dutifully intimated to us, (wherein we shall ever be no less ready to give them all gracious satisfaction, than their own hearts can desire) we have resolved, by the advice of our Privy Council, to hold a parliament, &c.

And because, as well this great cause, (there to be handled amongst the rest, and to be weighed by the beam of the kingdom) as also the true and ancient institution of parliament, do require the lower house (at this time if ever) to be compounded of the gravest, ablest, and worthiest members that may be found. We do hereby, out of the care of the common good, wherein themselves are participant, (without all prejudice to the freedom of elections) admonish all our loving subjects (that have votes in the elections of Knights and Burgeses) of these few points following.

First, That they cast their eyes upon the worthiest men of all sorts, Knights and Gentlemen, that are lights and guides in their countries, experienced parliament men, wise and discreet statesmen, that have been practised in publick affairs, grave and eminent lawyers, substantial citizens and burgeses, and generally such as are interessed, and have portion in the estate.

Secondly, That they make choice of such as are well affected in religion, without inclining either to blindness or superstition, to schism or turbulent disposition.

Thirdly

Thirdly and lastly, That they be truly sensible, not to disvalue or disparage the house with **BANKRUPTS AND NECESSITOUS PERSONS, THAT MAY DESIRE LONG PARLIAMENTS ONLY FOR PROTECTION**; lawyers of mean account and estimation; young men that are not ripe for grave consultations; mean dependants upon great persons, that may be thought to have their voices under command, and such like obscure and inferior persons; so that, to conclude, we may have the comfort to see before us, the face of a sufficient and well-composed house, such as may be worthy to be a representative of the third estate of our kingdom, fit to nourish a loving and comfortable meeting between us and our people, and fit to be a noble instrument, under the blessing of almighty God, and our princely care and power, and with the loving conjunction of our prelates and peers, for settling of so great affairs, as are before expressed.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and Freemen, and to all true faithful and loyal subjects to his Majesty King **GEORGE the Third,** WHOM GOD LONG PRESERVE.

MY friends and countrymen, you are exhorted in the name of all that is sacred and valuable, seriously to consider of the **TRUST** you are going to repose in your representatives; and the obligation you are under in conscience to the sovereign ruler of all things, to a young King, who ascends the Throne with every amiable virtue, expressed by mildness and diffidence, as you see by

his first Speech * in council, and be assured, penetration and judgment will follow, and of course direct his actions; pray consider, what can goodness do if always surrounded with delusion? You must be careful therefore, of what Representatives you send to parliament, and strictly examine whether they in all points agree and are conformable with the instructions pointed out from the throne; wherein you may observe what care is taken to express a deference, for the freedom of elections and the rights of freemen, that power may not be thought to usurp upon liberty. Those therefore, that know and understand the blessings of being free, must know that no Freeman or Freeholder ought to be prevailed on, either by bribe, fear of oppression,

* At the court at *Carleton-House*, the 25th day of *October*, 1760, present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in council.

His Majesty being this day present in council, was pleased to make the following declaration, *viz.*

THE loss that I and the nation have sustained by the death of the king my grandfather, would have been severely felt at any time, but coming at so critical a juncture, and so unexpected, it is by many circumstances augmented, and the weight now falling upon me much increased; I feel my own insufficiency to support it as I wish; but animated by the tenderest affection for this my native country, and depending on the advice, experience, and abilities of your lordships, on the support and assistance of every honest man, I enter with cheerfulness into this arduous situation, and shall make it the business of my life to promote, in every thing, the glory and happiness of these kingdoms, to preserve and strengthen both the constitution in church and state; and as I mount the throne in the midst of an expensive, but just and necessary war, I shall endeavour to prosecute it in the manner the most likely to bring on an honourable and lasting peace, in concert with my allies.

oppression, base adulation of powerful men, or hopes of lucre and gain to prostitute his vote in giving it for any of those persons that the Sovereign himself informs you DISVALUE and DISPARAGE the house, viz. BANKRUPTS and NECESSITOUS PERSONS THAT MAY DESIRE LONG PARLIAMENTS ONLY FOR PROTECTION, lawyers of mean account and estimation, young men that are not fit for grave consultations, mean dependants upon great persons, that may be thought to have their voices under command, and such like obscure and inferior persons; for in so doing you injure your country in the tenderest and most vital part, and destroy that constitution which makes and preserves you free, defends your religion, rights and properties; a man capable of such an action is the worst of TRAYTORS both to his King and Country; how can the best of Kings govern when you deceive him, and present him base tools to employ? for his goodness looks upon your choice as a recommendation to his favour; if the Representatives of the people debase and corrupt his government, the evil in that case is all of your own creating, you murmur at your Prince, when nothing can hurt and prejudice you but your own prostitution; for if the fountain is corrupt, the stream must be foul and muddy, therefore CAVETE, take warning, do not under the name of Freemen prove yourselves to be the basest of slaves, and make the freedom you enjoy (like unto a sword in a madman's hand) a weapon to murder your country.

Enquire strictly into the conduct of your late representatives, honour and respect those who have supported the government with loyalty and integrity

integrity, yet were steady to their trust in regard to the true interest of their country.

But for those who prostituted their votes to faction, or bartered their votes for private profit, or made a monopoly of the favours of the crown, and without regard to merit, appropriated them solely to the creatures of their faction; spurn them from society with contempt and ignominy; when you discard such, you tell your King a most essential truth and guard him from **BAD MEN**; remark those who have **ABUSED POWER**, and turned the edge of it against the innocent subject; remark those **INSOLENT IN OFFICE**; remark those who employed craft, intrigue, and every means to plunder and deceive you, and our common master the King.

Do not engage your votes rashly, but strictly examine the actions of every gentleman among you; see into your stock of worthy men, their actions speak them; do not be deluded by pomp, riches, titles, or power; when these **ACCIDENTS** are employed nobly, justly, and with humanity, they fairly demand a preference; but when they are employed to corrupt, oppress, pervert the laws, bias juries, recommending base tools for Sheriffs, or low and mean people to be Justices of the Peace and Magistrates of your country, they then give you undoubted proofs of the violence, treachery, and baseness of their own hearts; and are not to be trusted. An honest cobbler is worth a million of such wretches. The acts of a worthy
man

man are these, he is aiding and assisting to the wants and necessities of his fellow creatures, he is just and punctual in his dealings, he is faithful to his God, his King, and his Friend ; a mild but just administrator of the laws of his country, a peace-maker, a shining light to his neighbours, thinks nothing that can do good to mankind, below his care and attention ; is ever chearful and hospitable to his friends and neighbours, rejoices at industry and the prosperity of his tenants and dependants ; improves his country, introduces useful arts, expels indigence by manufactories, erects seminaries for the ignorant and destitute.

If you are ignorant of the characters of men, a worthy man will tell you truth, for calumny dwells not in a generous mind ; but the man that would intoxicate you with liquor, or cajole you out of your vote, begins with deceit and will conclude with treachery. Every good protestant goes to church, there examine your own hearts, and consider the Freeholders Oath that you are to take.

The

The OATH.

I *A. B.* do Swear, or do solemnly and truly affirm, as the case shall be, that I am a freeholder, and have a freehold estate in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, lying or being at
 of the clear
 yearly value of ten pounds, or of forty shillings (as the case shall happen to be) above all charges payable out of the same, and that I believe the same may be so let to a responsible tenant, and that I did not accept of such freehold estate fraudulently, or on purpose to qualify me to give my vote at this election, and that the place of my abode is at

and that I have not been polled before at this election, and that I am not a Papist, or married to a Papist, nor do I educate or suffer to be educated, any of my children under the age of fourteen years in the popish religion.

So Help me G O D.

Now

Now do not deceive yourselves and sacrifice your souls for any power upon earth; consider what is the nature of your freehold, whether it is really and truly of the intrinsic value you swear to, or fictitious and only made to answer the purpose of some false aspiring man, who drives you like sheep to the slaughter, and, not content to enslave your bodies, makes no scruple to sacrifice your souls to his base ambition. Will you serve, obey, or trust such a man?

The only vote a freeholder can safely swear to, I shall endeavour to describe; it must be free and independant of the will and power of any man, neither mortgaged to the value, nor in the power of any one to take from you; most small rent-charges are really occasional votes, but where papists are occupiers of the lands, out of which such rent charge arises, they are visibly a fraud and an oppression, the protestant is denied the benefit of occupying the land, and the racked papist saddled with the extorted rent-charge, this may be called a legal vote by lawyers, yet the man who approves it, ought clearly to shew the difference there is between that and committing forgery and perjury. Is there that madman, fool, or knave breathing, that would trust such a man with his property, or recommend him to his prince for a faithful servant? There is not a man in the world, that dare openly say he would. Other votes are granted seemingly as rent-charges, where promissory notes or agreements are made to give them up when required; this is a fraud and perjury to
vote

vote out of. Others have rent-charges subsisting, perhaps for many years, and have only received one year's rent; this is also a fraud and perjury to vote out of. The consequence of such false votes is rendering the honest and substantial freeholder's vote of no effect.

Next to producing false votes, let us consider the iniquity of robbing and quibbling honest freeholders out of their right of voting, as generally practised by election lawyers, to the shame and disgrace of the profession when so debased and corrupted. By way of advice to sheriffs, the worthy example of a man of integrity, Mr. *Weiberelt*, sheriff of the *Kings-County*, who, upon opening his court, declared, without favour or affection, that every man who offered his poll, should perform the requisites required by act of parliament, and take the freeholder's oath; that he would take down any objection that should be offered, but would not suffer them to debate any matter in the court, till a scrutiny was demanded after he had gone thro' the poll. The recent instances of partiality in sheriffs that have happened within these few Years, will shew them what to avoid, if they mean not to be guilty of the highest breach of trust to their king, and the greatest injury and oppression to their fellow subjects. Be upon your guard, my friends, for fear of surprize, preserve peace and harmony in your countries, but do not be alarmed at the report of any faction's taking advantage of a favourite list of sheriffs now in being, the crown that is so tender of the freedom of elections, will be careful to chuse honest men for that service. And as we all know, that this
parliament

parliament is prorogued to *April* next, and that the vote of credit wisely granted for the support of government is not yet exhausted, and that there are no pressing occasions for calling the parliament before the usual time of supply; that long days and summer time are more for the ease of the subject and dispatch of business at elections, and of consequence will render them more convenient, and not half so expensive. Therefore it is not to be supposed that the persons intrusted with his majesty's affairs in this kingdom, would be so wanton, as to recommend a fallacy to a young and virtuous monarch, and by a trick create jealousies and discontent only to answer the ends of a faction, from which God preserve our king and this country, to which all good men will say *Amen*.

That the power of goodness may direct you all for the best, is the hearty prayer of an honest man.

F I N I S.

Parliament is proposed to meet next, and that the vote of credit which is granted for the support of the Government is not yet exhausted, and that there are no pressing occasions for calling the Parliament before the usual time of supply; that long days and summer time are more for the sake of the light and dispatch of business at elections and of consequence will render them more convenient and not half so expensive. Therefore it is not to be supposed that the persons intrusted with the management of the affairs in this kingdom, would be so wantonly as to recommend a fallacy to a young and virtuous monarch, and by a trick create jealousies and discontent only to answer the ends of a faction, from which God preserve our king and his country, to which all good men will say Amen.

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